

REMARKS

Claims 21-25 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 21-25 presently stand rejected.

Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (4,994,658) in view of Ohwa et al. (5,850,079).

Analysis

Claim 21 is the only rejected claim in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the present invention according to claim 21.

As described in the pending specification (page 55), a card is inserted through the card entrance 516 (Fig. 30). The card entrance allow the card to reach the card transporting path 519. The shutter plate 502 moves between a closed position and an open position thereby controlling entry through the card entrance and thereby the card insertion path.

Takahashi relates to an optical card transporting mechanism. This reference corresponds to a non-analogous art as mentioned in the previous response. This reference fails to teach or suggest an opening/closing mechanism for closing a card entrance or entry to a card transporting path. Takahashi merely discloses a card moving carriage that moves between positions along a path. It is not capable of opening or closing a card entrance.

Further, Ohwa shows the shutter. However, this shutter corresponds to the prior art of the present invention. Namely, the shutter rotates around the pivot axis. Thus, the same problems occur as those mentioned in the background portion of the specification.

Further, according to the inventor's analysis, as compared with the present invention, Ohwa has defects as follows: 1) the detecting characteristic inferior at the rotation center side; 2) the operation time is more than that of the present invention due to the rotation movement caused to the large inertia as compared with the present invention; 3) operation force is inferior when the card urges against the shutter; and 4) the shutter is made of aluminum, thus, it is impossible to obtain SUS manner. Therefore, the apparatus can not defend against curving of the shutter by a criminal.

In view of the foregoing, even if one were to combine the cited prior art, one would still fail to arrive at the claimed invention. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 21, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/542,866

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

21. (Twice Amended) A shutter opening/closing mechanism comprising:

a card entrance for inserting a card;

a card transporting path for traveling of the card which has been inserted in the card entrance;

a shutter plate which opens and closes [an entry to a card transporting path] the card entrance by moving between a first closing position for closing [the] entry to the card transporting path and a second opening position for opening [the] entry to the card transporting path;

a drive source for moving said shutter plate; and

a connecting member for connecting a drive force of said drive source to said shutter plate;

wherein an opening/closing-side end face of said shutter plate is closed substantially parallel to said card transporting path at said closing position, and said opening/closing-side end face of said shutter plate is moved, by said drive source, substantially parallel to said card transporting path.